

Conserving wildlife through trading wildlife

19 Feb 2025

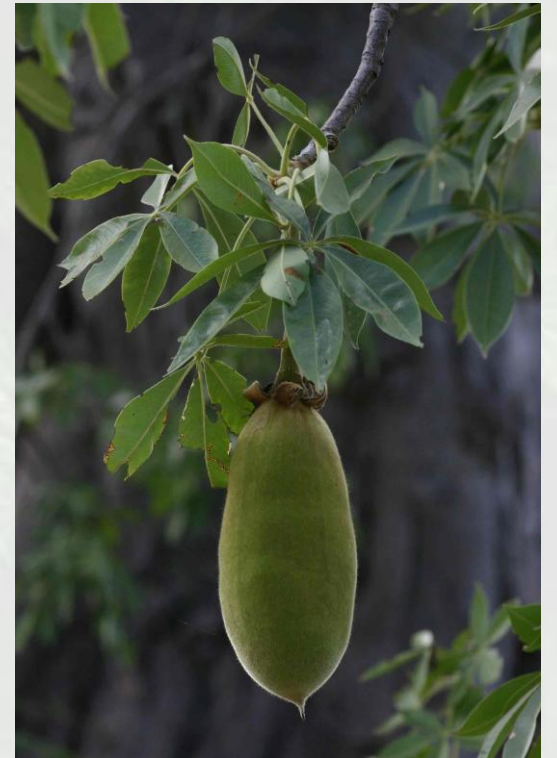
Dr Francis Vorhies
Visiting Scholar



Vinson
Centre



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BUCKINGHAM



The talk – 4 parts

- Definitions
- Policies
- Issues
- Next steps



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with thanks to:

Part 1 - Definitions

- Wildlife
- Wildlife conservation
- Wildlife trade

Woodland wildlife in autumn



Woodland wildlife in winter



www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Credits: Brambling and Siskin (c) Harry Hogg / Robin (c) Amy Lewis / Coal tit (c) Scott Petrek / Holly (c) Philip Precey / Wren and Woodcock (c) Margaret Holland / Jelly ear fungi (c) Les Birns / Fox (c) Jon Hawkins / Goldcrest (c) David Longshaw

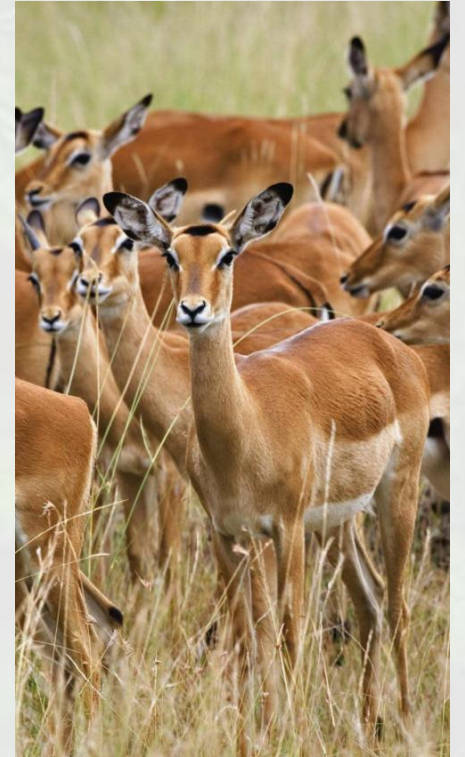
What is wildlife?

- *Interestingly, wildlife is not officially defined*
- **Wildlife** generally refers to all undomesticated animals and plants that live in their natural environments. This includes a wide variety of species, from mammals and birds to insects and plants, that exist in the wild without direct human intervention.
[Copilot]
- **Wild species** are populations of species that have not been domesticated and can survive independently of human intervention. They can be found in any environment.
[CBD guidance]



What is wildlife conservation?

- *Importantly, conservation is understood differently*
- **Wildlife conservation** is the *practice of protecting wild species and their habitats* to ensure they survive and thrive for future generations. This involves a range of activities, including habitat preservation, legal protection of endangered species, restoration of ecosystems, and efforts to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
[Copilot]
- **Conservation:** the *management of human use of the biosphere* so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.
[IUCN World Conservation Strategy, 1980]



What is wildlife trade?

- *Focus on wildlife goods, but there are also services*
- **Wildlife trade** involves the buying and selling of wild animals and plants, or products derived from them. This trade can be legal or illegal and includes live animals, plants, and their parts such as skins, bones, meat, and other products
[Copilot]
- Recognizing, in addition, that international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade...

Trade means export, re-export, import and introduction from the sea

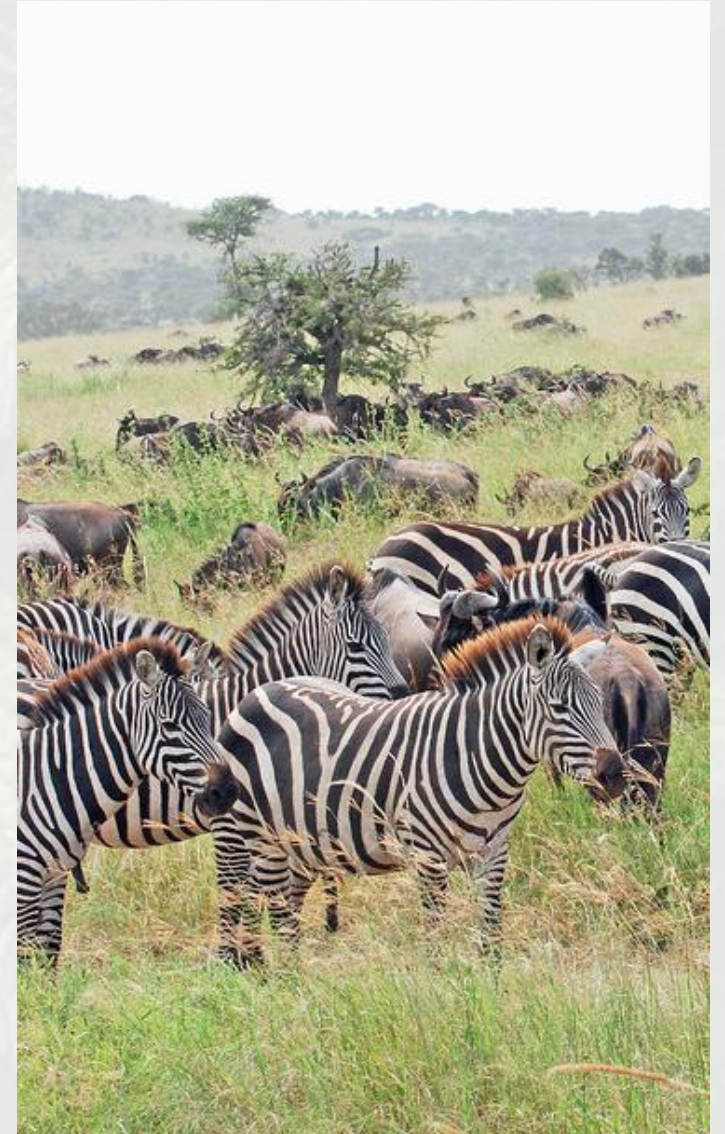
[CITES, 1973]



Elephant products

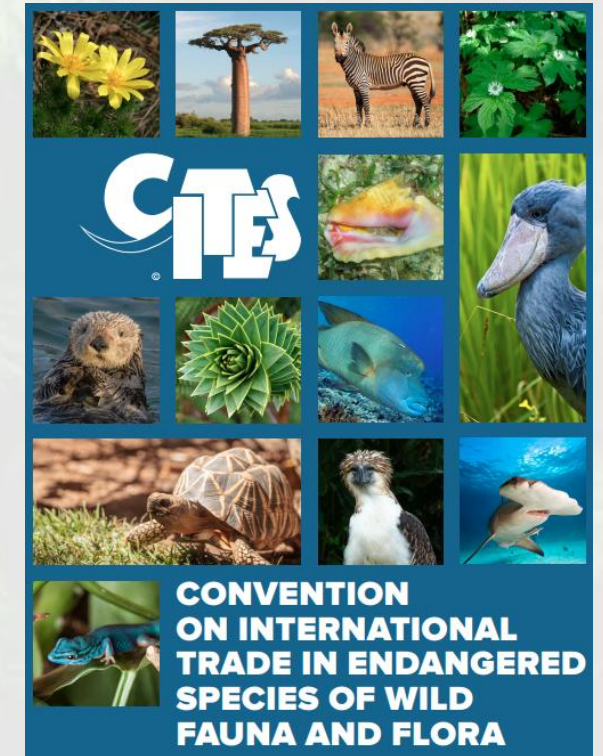
Part 2 - Policies

- 1975 - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**
- 1980 - **World Conservation Strategy**
- 1993 - **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- 2015 - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- 2022 - **Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**



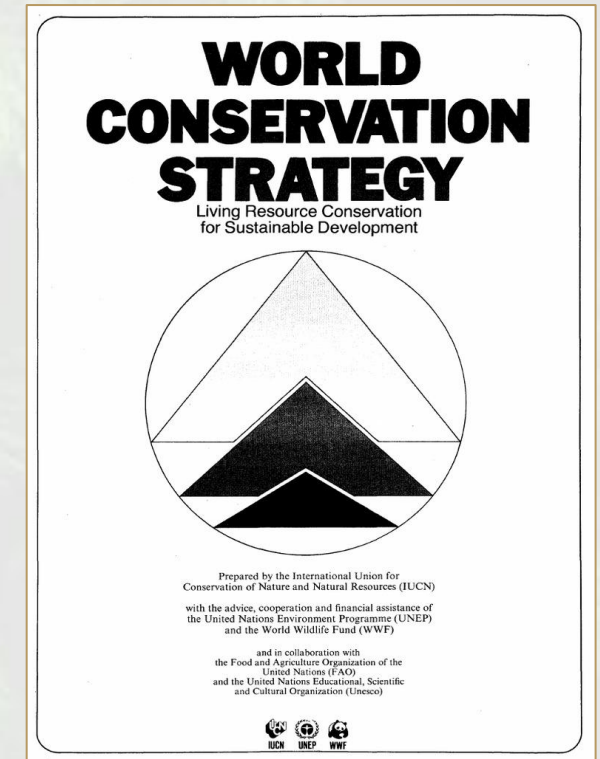
CITES (1975)

- **Aims** to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants is legal, sustainable, and traceable through internationally-agreed trade measures
- **Appendices**
 - **Appendix I** includes species threatened with extinction
 - **Appendix II** includes species which may be threatened with extinction
- **Trade measures**
 - **Export permits for I and II** based on non-detriment and legal acquisition findings
 - **Import permits for I** based on non-detriment for import purpose and non-commercial purpose



World Conservation Strategy (1980)

- **Ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems** (notably fish and other wildlife, forests and grazing lands), which support millions of rural communities as well as major industries
- **Sustainable utilization is somewhat analogous to spending the interest while keeping the capital**
- **Adopt conservative management objectives** for the utilisation of species and ecosystems
- **Ensure that access** to a resource does not exceed the resource's capacity to sustain exploitation
- **Maintain the habitats** of resource species
- **Regulate international trade** in wild plants and animals



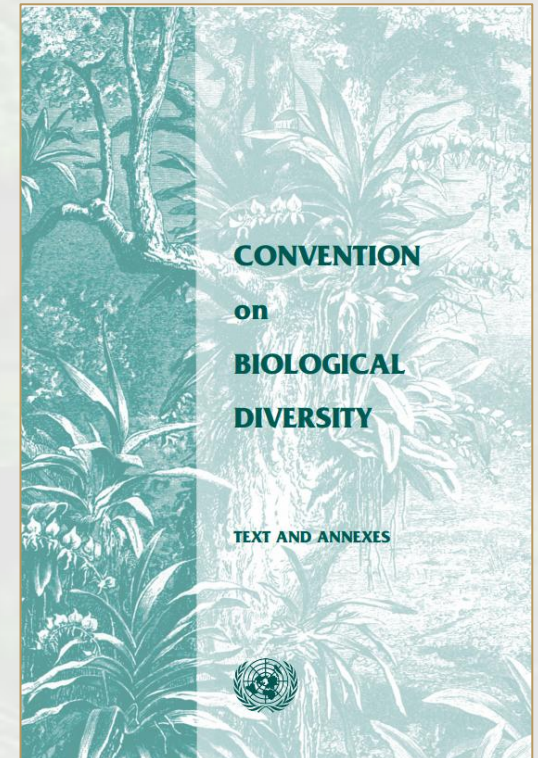
CBD (1992)

- Aware that **conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are critical to meeting the food, health, and other needs** of the growing world population
- Encourage cooperation between its governmental authorities and its private sector in **developing methods for sustainable use** of biological resources
- Collaborate with all relevant actors and stakeholders in order to promote the **mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular that of wild species, into all relevant sectors**

[CBD/COP/DEC/15/23]



Convention on
Biological Diversity



SDGs (2015)

- SDG 14. Conserve and **sustainably use** the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- SDG 15. Protect, restore and **promote sustainable use** of terrestrial ecosystems...
- Target 17.b Significantly increase the exports of developing countries...
- Target 17.c. Implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access... for all least developed countries



GBF (2022)

- **Vision** - A world of living in harmony with nature where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and **wisely used**” ...
- **Target 5** - Ensure that the use, harvesting and **trade of wild species** is **sustainable**, safe and **legal**...
- **Target 9** - Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental **benefits for people**...



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Part 3 - Issues

- CITES as an enabler of sustainable, legal trade
- Liberalising African wildlife trade
- Scaling up Africa's elephant economy
- UK's hunting trophy import ban
- Voluntary standards for wildlife trade



CITES as an enabler of sustainable, legal trade



Has CITES become too complicated to be effective?

Prof Francis Vorhies

Governments agreed to the text of CITES in the 1970s, which is quite straightforward. But the agreement's implementation...



Induction course for South Africa's Scientific Authority

Dive into the world of wildlife trade, discovering the essential regulations and mechanisms that govern international trade.



CITES, AfCFTA, and Livelihoods

Implications of the COP19 Appendices Proposals

Francis Vorhies

AWEI WildCRU, and IUCN SULU¹

Draft 13 November 2022

The 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19)² of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** is the first to be held since the commencement of trading under the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**.³ Hence, it is useful for African Parties to CITES to consider how they might ensure policy coherence for sustainable development (SDG Target 17.14) between CITES and AfCFTA. This note suggests that further attention to the livelihoods implications of CITES COP19 decisions could be useful.

AfCFTA aims "to eliminate trade barriers and boost intra-Africa trade... [and] contribute to establishing regional value chains in Africa, enabling investment and job creation... The bulk of the AfCFTA benefits will be realised if State Parties efficiently manage and eliminate NTBs [non-tariff barriers]".⁴

On the other hand, "works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls." These controls are non-tariff barriers requiring that imports and exports of wildlife products be "authorised through a licensing system."

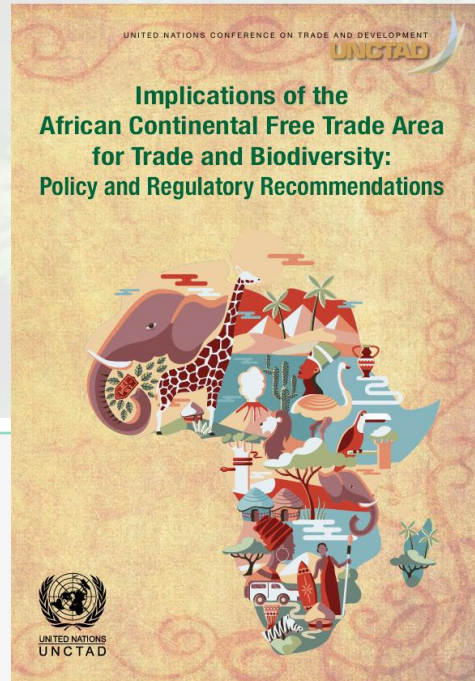
In contrast to establishing regional value chains in Africa, the AfCFTA aim to eliminate trade barriers, which may be at odds with the CITES aim to establish trade barriers to conserve species.

¹ Francis Vorhies is the Director of the African Wildlife Economy Institute (AWEI), Stellenbosch University (SU), a Research Visitor at the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford, and a member of the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULU).

² <https://cites.org/eng/cop19>
³ <https://au-afcfta.org/>

⁴ "Non-tariff barriers to trade, i.e., "a wide range of restrictive regulations and procedures, imposed by governments or other authorities, that make importation or exportation of products difficult and/or costly".

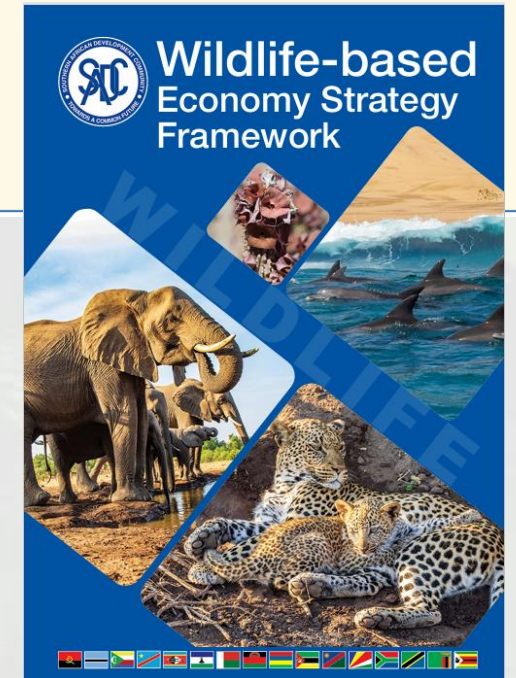
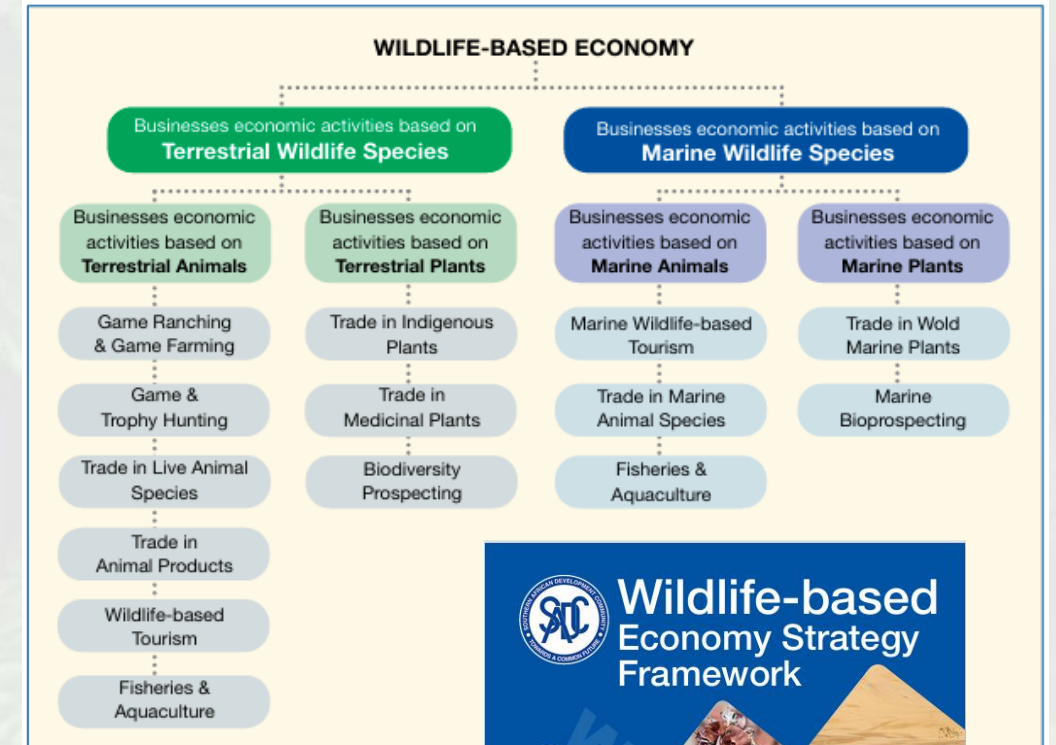
Liberalising African wildlife trade



Liberalising intra Africa trade in wild meat

A self-paced rapid short course on non-tariff barriers facing the trade in wild meat across the African continent.

[Learn more](#)



Scaling up Africa's elephant economy

Scaling up Africa's elephant economy

Issue Brief

July 2024

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Figure 1 Elephants in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

African Wildlife Economy Institute, Stellenbosch University

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Ecotourism

Hunting

Dung

Milk

Meat

Fat & bone marrow

Hide

Trophy

Ivory



UK's hunting trophy import ban



- **An illiberal trade measure**
 - undermines multilateral commitments to trade liberalisation and to ensuring that wildlife trade is sustainable and legal (WTO and CITES)
- **An anti-conservation measure**
 - undermines multilateral commitments to mainstreaming the sustainable use and trade of wild species (CBD & GBF)



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Kunming - Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Voluntary standards for wildlife trade

ARBOR
OILS OF AFRICA



NAMIB DESERT OILS

OrganicHerb
Trading



PUKKA



Baobab



Blackcurrant



Frankincense



Liquorice



Nettle



Wild Pear

Part 4 – Next steps

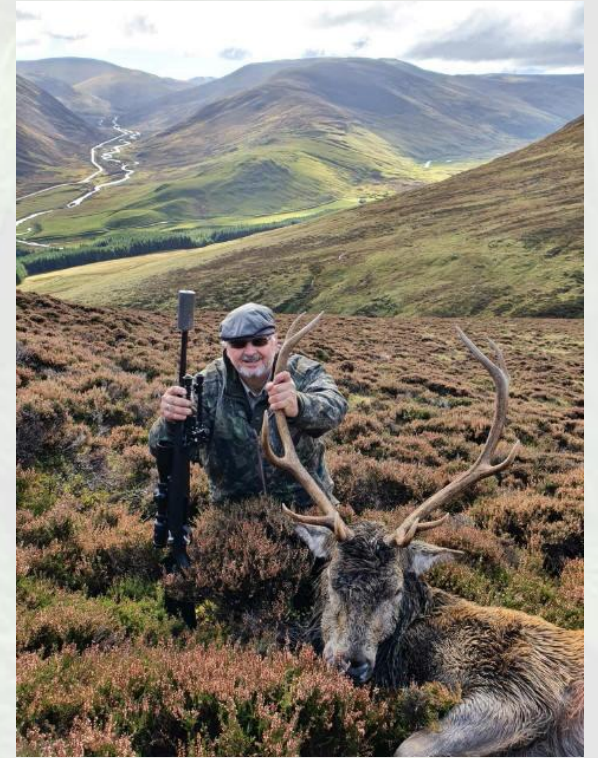
- Wild trade in economic thought
- Farming the unfarmed
- Wild Trade-related Programmes
- A Wild WILDTRADE



Wild trade in economic thought

- Hunting and fishing, the most important employments of mankind in the rude state of society, become in its advanced state their most agreeable amusements, and they pursue for pleasure what they once followed from necessity.
- The price of venison in Great Britain, how extravagant soever it may appear, is not near sufficient to compensate the expence of a deer park, as is well known to all those who have had any experience in the feeding of deer.... If venison continues in fashion, and the wealth and luxury of Great Britain increase as they have done for some time past, its price may very probably rise still higher than it is at present.

Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, 1776



Farming the unfarmed

- Clarkson says his farm has become overrun with deer, which caused enormous damage to young trees and that he, along with other farmers, had been asked by the UK Government to reduce their numbers.
- Enlisting the help of the British Deer Society to humanely hunt deer on the farm, he then turns his kill into venison hotdogs for sale at the Diddly Squat farm shop.
- Elsewhere on the farm, he forages for blackberries to make jam and nettles to make soup in his mission to unlock the potential of half his farm.

The Farmer

Farming the unfarmed

Michael Burt

July 29, 2024



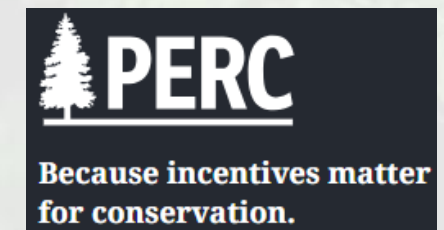
Wild Trade-related Centres

- The legal trade in wildlife products is often overshadowed by wildlife crime and illegal trade.
- It involves thousands of different fauna and flora species, provides a source of income for millions of producers, raw materials for businesses and local collectors, and a staggering array of goods for hundreds of millions of consumers.
- It plays an undeniably fundamental role in regional, national, and international economies.
- The benefits of legal, responsible, and sustainable wildlife trade are largely going unrecognised.



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WILDTRADE

Promoting a wider understanding of
how markets and entrepreneurship
can conserve wildlife

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